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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

RED CROSS NOTES

BY CLARA D. NOYES, R.N.

The speaking tour of the Director of the Bureau of Nursing Service of National Headquarters, through the New England and Atlantic Divisions, was completed with a meeting at Englewood, New Jersey, on February 2. The tour was extended to include Chicago, Milwaukee and Rockford, Illinois, and although many requests had been received to visit other cities in the Lake and Central Districts, the itinerary had been planned for the Atlantic Division and it did not seem wise to disarrange it.

The itinerary published in the last JOURNAL was modified, not only to include Chicago on the night of January 23, but also Milwaukee on the 24th, where one meeting was held in the afternoon at the Nurses' Club and another in the evening in a public hall; Rockford, Ill., January 25, evening; Camp Grant, Rockford, the morning of the 26th, where an opportunity was made for the Director to speak to the reserve nurses at luncheon. On January 28, 29 and 30, evening meetings were held in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. The meeting scheduled for Binghamton on the 31st was cancelled, but additional meetings were planned for Poughkeepsie, February 1; and Englewood, N. J., February 2. The New York City League arranged a special meeting for the senior classes of the Training Schools, February 5, at which the Director was invited to speak.

This tour included thirty-one cities, in several of which two meetings were held, and in all these places there were conferences with the committees. Three Army Base Hospitals,—Camp Devens at Ayer, Mass., Camp Grant at Rockford, Ill., and Camp Merritt at Tenaflly, N. J.—were visited. The nursing personnel of Navy Base Hospitals No. 2 and No. 3, Army Base Hospitals No. 1, No. 3, No. 24 and No. 30, Hospital Units A, K, S, P, O, and H, a unit of 100 nurses assigned to the British Expeditionary Force, as well as a number of special Red Cross units for Public Health work, also a group assigned to Military Hospital No. 1, formerly the American Ambulance, were seen in New York City and given a parting word of appreciation and encouragement.

The meetings held in the different cities have been very gratifying; large audiences including graduate nurses, pupils in uniforms or carrying banners, hospital and training school boards, Chapter members, high school students, have filled the halls. Great enthusiasm has prevailed. Important, however, as these meetings have been to arouse enthusiasm and interest, it is felt that the "follow-up" work is far more valuable, and plans have been made by the Division Directors and Committees to perpetuate the work by the appointment of nurses as recruiting officers in schools of nursing, registries, clubs, by the circularizing of alumnae associations with interesting facts, by the use of posters in all places where nurses congregate, by public speaking, patriotic meetings, and the utilizing of suggestions secured from Army recruiting, that would be consistent with nursing ethics.

The Red Cross Nursing Committees have invariably manifested great interest, have entered into the spirit of the meetings with great enthusiasm, and have extended every courtesy to the Director of the Bureau of Nursing Service, for which she is deeply grateful.

At the State Board Examinations held in different cities in the state of New York in January, Red Cross application blanks were given out in large numbers and many new enrollments were reported.

Emphasis is being placed upon the enrollment of members of senior classes, as soon as they complete their course of training. Should 50 per cent of those graduating this year enter the service, approximately 7000 nurses would be available for immediate military service. This would leave an adequate supply for civilian needs.

Mrs. Nicholas Brady has renovated and furnished the Old Colony Club building, 120 Madison Avenue, New York City, as a Red Cross mobilization center for Army nurses. She has also generously assumed the expense of conducting the house (food excepted). Weekly entertainments and lessons in French are provided. A work room in the building has been opened where nurses may make dressings.

Misses Anna C. Maxwell and Mary M. Brown have established the pleasant custom of giving each unit of nurses arriving in New York an afternoon tea at the Cosmopolitan Club, and Miss Brown, with her characteristic thought, presents each nurse with flowers. The nurses not only enjoy these events socially but, coming as they do from all parts of the United States, they appreciate meeting the women who have been conspicuous in nursing affairs for many years, hearing them speak, as occasionally they do, and exchanging a few parting words with their professional friends and confreres.

Since the last report on the status of Army base hospitals the following have been assigned to duty:

No. 3, Mt. Sinai (New York City), Amy Trench, chief nurse; 34, Protestant Episcopal Hospital (Philadelphia), Catherine Brown, chief nurse.

Papers of the personnel of the following base hospitals have been sent to the office of the Surgeon General:

No. 1, Bellevue Hospital (New York City), Beatrice Bamber, chief nurse. 20, University of Pennsylvania Hospital (Philadelphia), Edith B. Irwin, chief nurse. 24, Tulane Hospital (New Orleans), Ethel Holmes, chief nurse. 26, University of Minnesota Hospital (Minneapolis), Anna Gosman, chief nurse. 30, University of California Hospital (San Francisco), Amelia S. Crane, chief nurse. 33, Albany Hospital (Albany), Mattie Washburn, chief nurse.

In addition to hospital units already reported, Base Hospital 116, consisting of 100 nurses, with a chief nurse from the Army Nurse Corps, has been organized for the Army. A special group of nurses has been selected for the British Expeditionary Forces, the entire unit consisting of 100 nurses.

The papers of the nursing personnel of the seven Naval Station Hospital Units reported in the November number of the JOURNAL, have been sent to the office of the Surgeon General. The term Chief Nurse was incorrectly used at that time. The title Head Nurse should have been substituted.

From the Navy detachments around various training schools, local committees, etc., 283 nurses had been assigned to duty up to February 1st to the Naval hospitals already established in this country. In addition to these, 24 were assigned for February. The papers of 87 are still in the office of the Surgeon General of the Navy pending assignment.

Owing to the need of large numbers of nurses for cantonment hospitals, small groups varying in size from five to ten have been detached from the base hospitals and hospital units not in service, for temporary duty in the cantonment hospitals. It is the intention that these groups rejoin their respective units when ordered into service.

The entire personnel of the following hospital units have been assigned to duty, representing 294 nurses: A, B, C, D, F, G, H, K, L, O, P, Q, R, and S.

A Red Cross Unit with Edith Madeira as Head Nurse, to consist of ten nurses, is being organized for special service in relief work in Palestine. The group will be attached to a special Relief Commission of some forty or fifty members, and the route will be via Cape Town and Ceylon to Port Said, and probably Jerusalem. A large shipment of general supplies will probably accompany the party.